

Official Dispatch

Via: Air Pouch

MHB-A-514

7 May 1951

Chief, FDM

Attn: []

Subject: Operational
Christian Socialist Party

1. Reference is made to Secret Dispatch #1124 originating at the American Legation in Vienna entitled the "Hungarian Underground Movement" and concerns the interrogation of a refugee from Hungary named Ferenc Kalman Eorand FARKAS.

2. Higgler VI brought the attention of this office to said reference and asked if this office had been aware of the existence of such a group in Hungary. He added that quite independently he had been receiving rumors (or reports) of the arrest of a number of individuals in Budapest who were described as members of a Christian Socialist movement. He stated that up until this time he was unaware of the existence of such an organization.

3. By reading through the report, the undersigned came to the conclusion that the whole business is about as plausible as any of the previous "resistance movements" which had come to the attention of this office. The vague manner in which the origins of the party were described, along with a significant absence of names of leading personalities and the unreal manner in which membership was recorded seem to contribute to the opinion that this "visit" of FARKAS as party representative is tantamount to a new type of provocation. The story concerning the abortive flight plans of László HOVAN (the only name mentioned in the report) is hardly plausible considering the manner in which communist-dominated governments take counter-measures to cope with crimes of a lesser type.

4. Higgler VI telegraphed to Washington and Vienna the names of persons reported as arrested and known to be members or allied with such a movement; he suggested that perhaps the names may prove useful in further interrogation of FARKAS, aimed at getting more information out of him. Higgler VI admitted that Egri VII was the source of ~~information~~ this new information and it was believed that Egri VII got the data from one Tibor BANNHGYI, a somewhat suspicious individual, reputed to be a double agent. The data can be classified as follows: those who were reported to be Christian Socialists; those allied with underground movements. It is interesting to note that most of the arrests occurred in the month of April 1951.

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- a) These arrested 25 April 1951 on the charge of members of a monarcho-legitimist plot and belonging to the Christian (Catholic) Party:
Dr. Istvan TAKACS, a dentist and well-known politician
Lajos TARCZA, Catholic prelate and Inspector of Religious Instruction
Lajos MEVEI, Catholic parish priest of the VI Budapest District.

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Dr. Fnu NEVEI, physician and brother to last named above, and
13 others, unidentified by Source.

- b) Those arrested on the charge of being the nucleus of an anti-Communist government to be established when the Russians leave Hungary. The aims of this group appear to be identical with those of the Christian Socialists.

Dr. Jene CZETTLER, past 70, University professor, pre-war member of Parliament, prominent economist, arrested several months ago.
Lt. Col. Jene SUHAJ, arrested some weeks ago.
Istvan FRIEDRICH, Prime Minister after World War I and onetime Minister of Defense. Arrested 14 April 1951.
Hugo PAYR, Leader of the Coalition Party in the Budapest area circa 1947. Arrested 14 April 1951.
Dr. FNU TAKACS, physician and member of the Coalition Party for Budapest. (possibly the same as above) Arrested 14 April 1951.
Lt. Gen. Imre SUHAJ, retired before World War II. Arrested 14 April 1951.

5. The undersigned recalls that Dagenham and [] successor discussed during a meeting on 24 April 1951 the arrival of an individual from Hungary who was sent to west Europe to make contact with certain officials on behalf of a resistance movement leaders in Hungary. It appears likely that the Vienna Dispatch concerns this same person. Regretfully, this office has forgotten the name of Dagenham's resistance representative. Vienna station officers stated that their man's story was forwarded to Headquarters and as a reply, Headquarters likened the story to many other "resistance movement" plots which have been reported by this station, and elsewhere. It is recalled that Vienna wanted to "break" their man's story and learn whether there is more to his visit than what he has chosen to reveal. It is ~~known~~ not considered wise to use the above information in the further interrogation of FARKAS, (or the other man, if there be one) in the opinion of this ~~station~~ office as the source of this information is regarded as a double-agent in insofar as Egri VI is concerned. It is also curious to note that the wave of arrests, if true, occurred shortly after the arrest of Aloysius PONCRACZ, who had been involved in such movements and whose exploits have been previously reported.

cc: Vien, Sals

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